(b) whether sub-standard and painted tin plates have fused danger to the health of the public;

(c) whether the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore has also warned against the use of sub-standard tin plates; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to counter the adverse effect of these plates on the health of the people?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). As per available information, in addition to prime quality tin plates, tin plate waste and tin plate waste—waste are also being imported into the country. As per the Rule 49 of the Rules framed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the use of second-hand tin and tins which are imperfectly tinned is prohibited for packing edible oils and fats. Whenever the regulatory authorities, the importers or the actual users seek the advice of the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore on the quality of tin plate or the containers, the Institute analyses, evaluates and gives its advice as per the prevention of Food Adulteration Act administered by the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with special reference to the contaminants in foods.

Pending PCO/STD/ISD Applications

928. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for the allotment of PCO/STD/ISD booths;

(b) the names of the allottees alongwith the grounds on which the said booths have been sanctioned to them during the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending for sanction of such booths State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) STD PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for Urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons :

(i) Handicapped including blind persons.

(ii) SC/ST applicants.

(iii) Ex-Servicemen/War Windows.

(iv) Retired DOT employees or their dependents.

(v) Dependents of Freedom Fighters.

(vi) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) STD PCOs are allotted by STD PCO Allotment Committees to eligible applicants taking all factors into account. Number of PCOs allotted during last three years, till date are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the States/ Circles/Districts	No. of STD PCOs allotted from 1.4.93 to 30.9.96.
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	9
2.	Andhar Pradesh	4933
3.	Assam	1483
4.	Bihar	3497
5.	Gujarat	6728
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	330
7.	Kerala	5756
8.	Karnataka	5326
9.	Madhya Pradesh	6706
10.	Maharashtra	9186
11.	Orissa	1999
12.	Haryana	2068
13.	Himachal Pradesh	371
14.	Punjab	7246
15.	Rajasthan	5052
16.	North Eastern	454
17.	Tamil Nadu	3924
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	9571
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	
20.	West Bengal	1499
21.	Mumbai	4414
22.	Delhi	3948
23.	Calcutta	4269
24.	Chennai	2417

[Translation]

Introduction of train services is Agra

929. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court and other Parliamentary Committees have submitted a proposal to the Government to introduce local train services in Agra and on other routes of Taj protected area to check vehicle pollution and to protect the Taj Mahal from environmental pollution;